

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065115

65

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 IO-11 MC-02

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ARA/CEN:GGOWEN

EUR/UK:JSHUMATE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065115

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE:WITHDRAWAL OF HARRIER JETS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS TODAY,MARCH 17,
UK EMBASSY OFFICER MENTIONED THAT HMG WAS CONSIDERING
WITHDRAWAL OF THE HARRIER AIRCRAFT FROM BELIZE. FINAL
DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE BUT UK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WANTS
TO SEND PLANES BACK TO GERMANY. FOREIGN OFFICE WILL
PROBABLY ACCEDE TO MOD REQUEST IF ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE
SO THAT PLANES COULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO BELIZE QUICKLY IF
NEEDED. ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE STOCKPILING SUFFICIENT SPARES
IN BELIZE TO SUPPORT HARRIERS WITHOUT NEED FOR LOGISTICAL
BUILDUP AND WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENT WITH CANADA FOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 065115

ADVANCE CLEARANCE IF HARRIERS HAVE TO RETURN.

2. UK OFFICER SAID THAT, IF ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE COMPLETED SOON, PLANES SHOULD BE OUT OF BELIZE BEFORE TALKS RESUME IN APRIL. HE ASKED US NOT REPEAT NOT TO INFORM GOG OF THIS AS IT WAS STILL NOT DEFINITE. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS SUGGESTED THAT HARRIER WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT NOTE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER MENTIONED THE UK WAS NOT AT ALL SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF

RIGIDITY ON BOTH SIDES ABOUT TERRITORIAL ISSUE. WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO WHAT UK WOULD DO IF NEGOTIATIONS BROKE DOWN, HE REPLIED THAT "WE MIGHT JUST HAVE TO STAY THERE FOR SEVERAL MORE YEARS."

4. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS TOLD EMBOFF OF OUR DECISION TO PROVIDE 3 ADDITIONAL UH-1H HELICOPTERS TO GUATEMALA, RATIONALE BEING THEIR NEED IN MAINTAINING COMMUNICATIONS WITH REMOTE AREAS IN UPCOMING RAINY SEASON. WE ALSO MENTIONED THAT ORDER FOR 5 UH-1B HELICOPTERS FROM MIMEX PROGRAM HAD BEEN CANCELLED. KISSINGER

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